GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1821
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2003
DEPENDENCE OF AGRICULTURE ON RAIN
MANSINH PATEL;RATNA SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether two-third of agriculture land in the country depends upon rain for irrigation;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government have made any assessment of average rainfall in such areas;

(d) if so, the details of areas assessed as scanty rainfall, average rainfall and above average rainfall area separately;

(e) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for ensuring optimum use of rain water in the said areas;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to implement the said scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The Government of India has accorded high priority to the development of rainfed areas throughintegrated watershed management approach.

(c) & (d): The rainfed areas can be broadly classified into arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid region.

The arid areas, forming 19.6% of the total geographical area, are characterized by low and erratic rainfall (less than 500 mm mean annual rainfall).,

Semi arid areas can be further classified into dry and wet. Dry semi arid areas, having 12% of the total geographical area, receive mean annual rainfall ranging from 500 mm to 700mm and Wet semi arid areas, having 25.9% of the total geographical area, receive mean annual rainfall ranging from 750mm to 1100mm. Dry sub-humid region, constituting 21.1% of the total geographical area, receives mean annual rainfall ranging from 1100mm to 1600mm.

(e) to (g): Several ongoing programmes, such as National Watershed Development Project forRainfed Areas (NWDPRA), Watershed Develop Project for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) ofthe MoA and Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) of theDoLR, aim to ensure optimum use of rain water. A statement giving physical and financial achievements of these programmes is annexed.

ANNEXURE

Physical and financial achievement under Integrated Watershed Development Projects/Schemes

S.No.	Watershed Scheme (year of Start)	Upto VIII Plan (1997-2002	During IX Plan March 2002		Area treated since inception upto	
		Area Treated (Lakh ha.)	Total Investment (Rs.crore)	Area Treated (Lakh ha.)	Total Investment (Rs.crore)	Area Treated (Lakh ha.)	Total Investment (Rs.crore)

I Min. of Rural Development,
Department of Land Resources
i DPAP
(1973-74) 68.60 1109.95 29.64 658.29 98.24 1768.24
ii DDP (1977-78 8.48 722.79 15.34 519.79 23.82 1242.58
iii IWDP
(1988-89) 2.84 542.96 14.49 496.80 17.33 1039.76
iv WDTF 0.01 4.74 0.01 4.74
Sub-total 79.93 2380.44 59.47 1674.88 139.40 4055.22
II Min.of Agri., Department
of Agri. & Coopn.
i NWDPRA (1990-91) 42.23 967.93 26.19 1005.92 68.42 1973.85
ii RVP&FPR (1962 & 81) 38.89 819.95 8.17 470.14 47.06 1290.09
iii WDPSCA (1974-75) 0.74 93.73 1.30 63.40 2.04 157.13
iv EAPs 10.00 646.00 5.00 1425.00 15.00 2071.00
Sub-Total 91.86 2527.61 40.66 2964.46 132.52 5492.07
III Ministry of Environment
and Forests
i IAEPS
(1989-90) 2.98 230.12 1.23 141.54 4.21 344.66
Grand Total 174.77 5111.17 101.36 4780.88 276.13 9892.05

Details of abbreviations

NWDPRA -National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas
RVP&FPR -Watershed Development in Catchments of River Valley Projects &
Flood Prone Rivers .
WDPSCA -Watershed Develop Project for Shifting Cultivation Areas
EAPs -Externally Aided Projects
DPAP -Drought Prone Area Programme
IWDP -Integrated Wasteland Development Project
WDTF - Wasteland Development Task Force
IAEPS -Integrated Afforestation & Eco-development Project Scheme